JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and the

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Careina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N #SAC 2007-2504-1IW

LNOVEMBER 2007

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (32 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) an application has been submitted the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS RECREATION & C/O COASTAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (CSE)
POST OFFICE BOX 8056
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202-8056

for a permit to perform beach nourishment using sand from two accreting areas adjacent to and in waters of the

ATLANTIC OCEAN

at locations along the shoreline of Hunting Island State Park on Hunting Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.3714°, Longitude 80.4367°)

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, WEDNESDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2007

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of excavating sand from two accreting areas at the ends of Hunting Island and transporting the material using land based equipment to critically eroded oceanfront areas. The two borrow areas include the south spit of Hunting Island which is adjacent to Fripp Inlet approximately 600 ft. south of the southernmost cabin and the north spit of Hunting Island which is adjacent to Johnson Creek Inlet approximately 200 ft. north of the terminal groin.

In detail, the project includes the excavation of up to 400,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand and the transportation of this material to eroded areas along the coastline of Hunting Island in an area measuring approximately 109.2 acres (18,700 linear feet). This work is proposed to be carried out in multiple events over a five year period with each event expected to transport between 100,000 and 150,000 cubic yards of sand. The purpose of the project, according to the applicant, is to provide erosion control and beach restoration until a large scale nourishment project can be planned and approved. The current project is expected to:

- Maintain the recreational beach and protect associated infrastructure and buildings where accelerated erosion has occurred;
- Maintain a viable beach in front of the freshwater wetland or close any breaches that may occur;
- Preserve the aesthetic character and reduce the exposure of structures on the beach due to accelerated erosion.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website at www.usace.sac.army.mil and will be also be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 109.2 acres of marine and estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is likely to adversely affect the loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta), the piping plover (Charadrius melodus) and sea-beach amaranth (Amaranthus pulmilus) and/or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service to initiate formal consultation on these species and/or critical habitat that may be present in the area which would be affected, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) and request their views regarding the impact of the proposed work on these threatened species.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and

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evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Debbie King at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Bill Eiser
Project Manager
SCDHEC-OCRM











